

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 7, 10-11 and 13-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 6, 8, 9 and 12 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein and new claims 14-21 are added. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance because the rejected claims are canceled; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the rejected claims are canceled and the new claims depend from allowed claims; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Office Action indication that claims 2-5, 7 and 10-13 are allowed. New claims 14-21 variously depend from allowed claims 5 and 7. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 14-21 are also allowable.

II. The 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph, Rejection Is Moot

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 6, 8 and 9. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

III. The 103(a) Rejection Is Moot

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,319,517 to Nomura in view of JP 11-103022. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 6, 8 and 9. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 23, 2007

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